

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is monitoring closely the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Current information suggests that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and more cases might be identified in the United States, including in Chicago. Based on what we've seen in China and in other countries, most cases of COVID-19 cause a mild illness. To date, children also seem to be less likely to become ill. However, stopping transmission of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep our city, schools, and homes safe. The following interim guidance is intended for childcare programs and may help administrators prevent exposures to all acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. The guidance also provides planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19.

Recommended Strategies that Girls of Grace Youth Organization Programs are Using Now

Actively encourage sick children and employees to stay home:

- Children and staff who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to daycare until they are free of fever (100.4°) for at least 24 hours

Separate sick children and employees and send them home immediately.

- Sick children and employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Young children may not be able to communicate when something is wrong. We have developed a plan for identifying children who get sick during the school day.
- Our staff will be taking a “refresher” training on how to recognize respiratory illness signs and symptoms in children.

Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all children and employees:

- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- Instruct children and employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs in the school. Note: Small children should only use hand sanitizers under adult supervision. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers has raised concerns about eye contamination, skin reactions, alcohol poisoning, and flammability.
- Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Place hand rubs for employees in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.

Perform routine environmental cleaning:

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the daycare. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, toys) can be wiped down before each use every day.

Advise parents and employees before traveling to check the CDC's Traveler's Health Notices for the latest guidance and recommendations. CDPH strongly recommends avoiding travel to countries with level 3 travel notices, including layovers at airports. Children and adults returning from countries with a Travel Alert Level 3 may face some limitations on their movement and activity. Please follow instructions during this time. For more information see CDPH's latest movement guidance at www.chicago.gov/coronavirus.

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

